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NOTES ON CURRENT LEGISLATION

MARGARET A. SCHAFFNER

The Constitutional Union of South Africa. Since writing the report upon the constitution of South Africa, published in the last issue, several important steps have been taken toward its final adoption which require chronicling. On June 2 the Transvaal and Orange River Colony led off by adopting the amended constitution. Cape Colony's assent was registered the next day. The referendum in Natal occurred on June 10, and, contrary to expectation, the constitution was carried by a large majority, 11,121 votes being recorded in favor, and only 3701 against. Every constituency gave an affirmative decision. Each colony then selected delegates to carry the new constitution to England, where it has been introduced into the British parliament, and at present writing is in process of enactment. No opposition has, of course, been encountered in this final stage and its passage in the course of a few weeks is certain. It will require some time to arrange the electoral districts and institute a general election, so that it will be next spring or summer before the new government can be set up. The delegates have proposed to the government that May 31, 1910, be fixed as the date, that being the eighth anniversary of the conclusion of the peace of Vereeniging which put an end to the South African war.

WALTER JAMES SHEPARD.

The Indian Councils Act. On May 25 a measure became law which is not untruthfully described by the *Times* as "one of the most momentous steps which parliament has ever been asked to sanction in Indian affairs." This act marks an epoch in British Indian policy. In the debate on its second reading in the lords, the position was definitely accepted by Lord Morley that administrative efficiency is no longer to be taken as the fundamental principle and criterion of English rule in India; efficiency must be supplemented by political concessions. The American ideal of colonial policy, viz: the development of the capacity for self-government by the natives, through active participation in representative institutions, is henceforth to stand along with the British